



CHARLESWORTH SCHOOL

...from tiny acorns great oaks grow

Collective Worship Policy September 2024



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1. Statement of intent

All pupils at Charlesworth VC Primary School are required to take part in daily Collective Worship where pupils are given the opportunity to explore their own beliefs and consider spiritual and moral issues.

At Charlesworth VC Primary School, the daily act of worship is considered an integral and important part of school life. In accordance with the School Standards and Framework Act 1998, the daily collective worship shall be “wholly or mainly of a broadly Christian character”, though not representative of a particular Christian denomination.

All pupils are encouraged to learn about the beliefs of others in addition to their own as part of the religious education national curriculum. Children take part in Collective Worship in whole-school assemblies, Key Stage assemblies and in their classes, and it is a time for the whole school to reflect on spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues.

2. Legal framework

This policy has due regard to statutory legislation including, but not limited to, the following:

- The School Standards and Framework Act 1998

This policy also has due regard to guidance, including, but not limited to, the following:

- DfE (1994) ‘Religious Education and Collective Worship’

3. Policy Aims

Collective worship at Charlesworth VC Primary School aims to:

- Enable pupils to consider spiritual and moral issues, as well as explore their own beliefs.
- Encourage participation and response via active involvement or through listening and participating in the worship offered.
- Provide pupils with the opportunity to plan, lead or contribute to collective worship.
- Provide a peaceful environment to enable stillness, prayer and reflection.
- Help pupils to develop an awareness of their community and the spirit of helping others.
- Develop a spirit of community and an understanding of individuals with other beliefs.
- Acknowledge diversity and affirm each individual’s life stance, whether religious or not.

- Promote a common ethos and shared values.
- Reinforce positive attitudes.

4. Definition of collective worship

For the purpose of this policy, “**collective worship**” is an act which is additional to, and separate from, ordinary school activities. Collective worship is a time when individuals collaborate to promote the Christian values which are fundamental to the school’s ethos.

To “take part” in collective worship implies more than a passive attendance, such that it should have the ability to elicit responses from pupils even though they may not feel able to actively identify in the act of worship on a particular occasion.

5. Organisation and planning

The act of worship will be held for a minimum of 20 minutes daily. Each assembly held will have a theme relevant to current affairs and topics agreed by the Headteacher. The content of all acts of collective worship will be considered to ensure suitability and relevance to pupils of all ages and backgrounds. As a staff team, we will establish a timetable for collective worship to make sure progression from each session is carried on to the next, as well as to ensure that learning is practically applied by pupils to their lives inside and outside of school. This will be monitored by the Collective Worship lead. Whole School Worships will be carried out each Friday and visitors from the local churches or community will be invited to lead these worships based on our Value for the term. These visits will be timetabled throughout the year to ensure that there is a broad and balanced worship offer for the children.

6. Weekly collective worship programme

The school aims to deliver a varied collective worship programme to pupils. The current schedule is outlined in the table below:

Infant Collective Worship Timetable		Junior Collective Worship Timetable	
Day of the Week	Delivery Programme	Day of the Week	Delivery Programme
Monday	Value of the term	Monday	Value of the term
Tuesday	Story Worship or linked to events in the Liturgical calendar or current issue	Tuesday	Class Worship
Wednesday	Hymn Practise – worship through song and prayer	Wednesday	Story Worship or linked to events in the Liturgical calendar or current issue
Thursday	Celebration Assembly	Thursday	Hymn Practise – worship through song and prayer
Friday	Whole School Open Worship	Friday	Whole School Open Worship Celebration Assembly

Worship points to note:

1. If no Whole School Worship planned, each class will hold an individual act of worship.
2. When classes participate in Forest Schools sessions (Tuesday pm), the class will hold an individual act of worship.
3. Each class will lead a Whole School Open Worship at least twice throughout the year. Willow Class may only lead once.
4. Church Council will begin to lead a Whole School Open Worship in the Spring and Summer term.

7. Implementation

The school aims to promote rich and meaningful experiences of collective worship that are appropriate to pupils' needs, ages and interests by:

- Presenting displays that promote and enhance spiritual ideas and thoughts.
- Encouraging pupils to reflect and contemplate on their thoughts, feelings and beliefs.
- Using artefacts, secular stories, resources, music, art, drama and speakers to engage pupils' interest.
- Involving pupils in different experiences of worship, e.g. silence, prayer, rituals, shared or written prayers, etc.

8. Right to withdraw

Parents/carers have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship and are not required to provide a reason for doing so.

Parent/carers will be encouraged to discuss their decision with the headteacher.

Following a request of withdrawal in terms of:

- The elements of worship in which the parent/carer would object to the pupil taking part.
- The practical implications of withdrawal.
- Whether the parent/carer will require notice in advance of such worship, and if so, what period of notice is preferred.

Withdrawal of a pupil usually involves their physical absence; however, if it is agreed so between the headteacher and parent/carer, the pupil may remain in the collective worship but will not be involved in any discussion.

The headteacher will arrange alternative provision for any pupil who is withdrawn from collective worship; this may involve religious worship relevant to their particular faith or denomination provided that:

The effect of the alternative provision would not replace the denominational collective worship with that of the statutory, non-denominational worship.

Such arrangements can be made at no additional cost to the school.

The alternative provision would be consistent with the overall purposes of the school curriculum.

9. Pupils with special educational needs and disabilities

The school will take into account pupils of different ages and abilities when delivering the collective worship programme. The school will arrange for learning mentors to assist pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) if the need arises.

10. Monitoring and review

This policy will be reviewed every two years by the Headteacher and Collective Worship Lead.

This policy will be evaluated in accordance with feedback from questionnaires and class discussions.

Any changes made to this policy and the collective worship programme will be communicated to all members of staff.